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## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Founded by JOSEPH PULITZER

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## THE POST-DISPATCH PLATFORM

KNOW THAT MY RETIREMENT  
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IN ITS CARE  
PRINCIPLES. THAT IT WILL AL  
FIGHT FOR PROGRESS AND RE  
NEVER TOLERATE INJUSTICE OR  
BUTION. ALWAYS FIGHT DEMAGOG  
OF ALL PARTIES. NEVER BELONG  
ANY PARTY. ALWAYS OPPOSE PRIVILE  
CLASSES AND PUBLIC FLUNDRY  
NEVER LACK SYMPATHY WITH  
POOR. ALWAYS REMAIN DEVOTED  
THE PUBLIC WELFARE. NEVER BE  
TIED WITH MERELY PRINTING. N  
ALWAYS BE DRASTICALLY DISSE  
BUT. NEVER BE AFRAID TO AT  
WRONG. WHETHER BY PREDAT  
CRATOCRACY OR PREDATORY POV

JOSEPH PULITZER

April 10, 1907

Saturday, Nov. 7, 195

There is no doubt that the United States needs an agency like the CIA to cope with conditions as they exist in the modern world. Exposure of some of its activities, it is presumed, would damage its effectiveness and probably jeopardize the lives of a good many of its employees. But the danger is that a public agency such as this, operating with immunity from public scrutiny, is likely to extend its activities beyond the boundaries originally set.

For example, the CIA is not a policy-making organization. Its function is to provide the President and the National Security Council with material on which policy decisions can be based. But early in October, Air Force Gen. C. P. Cabell, CIA deputy director, told the National Guard Association the "Communist fire" in Laos "must be met with strong determination." He compared the Laotian action to the "shot heard round the world" at Lexington in the American Revolution.

This is a doubly-curlous statement because it gets into the field of policy and because Gen. Cabell presumably had access to CIA evaluations of the situation in Laos. It turned out, the pressure on the royal Laotian government was of an amorphous political nature. On what sort of CIA information did Gen. Cabell base his attitude? Was the CIA misled? Or was Gen. Cabell overly excited?

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These are some of the questions Congressmen would ask if they were able to exercise some supervision over the agency. For years there have been proposals—a number of them by Senator Mansfield of Montana—that Congress establish a "watch-dog" committee similar to the joint atomic energy committee. This procedure has worked well in the case of the Atomic Energy Commission. It would help the CIA maintain public confidence and would assure the release of as much information as could safely be disclosed.

The public, through Congress, has a right to know whether its money is being spent wisely. Renewed efforts should be made in the next Congress to establish a CIA supervisory committee.